

NEW
ZEALAND
CHORAL
F E D E R A T I O N I N C
Te Kotahitanga Manu Reo o Aotearoa

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20 February 2010

Dear NZCF members

1) Reminder: Choir Directors' Conducting Colloquium – 27 February

We already have a good number of conductors coming to Wellington from all over the country – if you haven't already registered, **please do so today**. Don't miss out on this opportunity to discuss the future of the training of choral directors in this country and to contribute to plans for an association of choral directors within the NZCF. To be led by Guy Jansen, this colloquium arises out of the "Futures" Workshop held at Sing Aotearoa 09 and seeks to address an area of high priority for the Governance Board.

Conductors are urged to approach their choir committees to send them to the colloquium. It will explore the needs of the hundreds who lead our choirs. Possibilities such as on-line courses, video-conferencing, new programmes and a national NZCF conductors' convention will be discussed.

When: 9.30 – 4.30pm, Saturday 27 February 2010

Where: St John's Conference Centre, cnr Willis & Dixon St, Wellington

Cost: \$15 (covers teas and lunch) – to be paid on the day

The colloquium is an opportunity for choral directors to influence the future of choir leadership in New Zealand; we'd love to see as many there as possible.

Please register ASAP at office@nzcf.org.nz

2) Exciting opportunities for conductors and singers with Simon Halsey

The NZCF has organised a visit by international choral director Simon Halsey from 16 to 30 August 2010. Simon is the chief conductor of the 64-voice professional Berlin Radio Choir (www.rundfunkchor-berlin.de), working alongside such conductors as Simon Rattle, Claudio Abbado and Marek Janowski. His work preparing the choir for recordings with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra has earned him a Grammy Award two years running. He has also been Chorus Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus for over 25 years.

Simon's New Zealand visit will include two full-weekend choral conducting masterclasses (for advanced conductors) in Auckland and Christchurch, with choral workshops or open rehearsals in Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland, Hamilton and Palmerston North.

a) Choral Conducting Masterclasses

The two masterclasses are a not-be-missed opportunity for 24 advanced-level conductors (12 each weekend), to work under one of the pre-eminent choral directors in the world. Simon Halsey will give all conductors a significant amount of one-on-one tuition, as they rehearse several contrasting works with two well-prepared chamber choirs provided especially for each weekend. This will be invaluable professional development for choir directors, assisting them to improve their skill in the art of choral conducting. Simon will also work with the choirs by way of demonstration.

This is also an excellent opportunity for a choir to invest in its conductor (and the future of their choir) by sponsoring the conductor to attend the weekend and learn from one of the giants of the international choral world – potentially a life-changing experience.

When and where

- Christchurch – Friday 20 August 7.00pm to Sunday 22 August 5.00pm
- Auckland – Friday 27 August 7.00pm to Sunday 29 August 5.00pm

Costs and discounts

- Conductors – \$650 (full registration), including morning and afternoon teas, lunches, and the Saturday conference dinner at a local restaurant with Simon
- Early bird rate – \$30 discount for enrolments received before 30 June 2010

Choirs are encouraged to apply for funding from local bodies.

How to apply

- Email office@nzcf.org.nz for an application form to be sent to you or to register interest.
- All members will be sent application forms with the next edition of Breve and forms will also be downloadable from the website.

b) Evening Workshops – “Sing with Simon”

Enjoy singing under Simon Halsey for two-and-a-half hours, experiencing the dynamism and skill of a great conductor. Music scores and refreshments provided.

When and where

All evening workshops will run from 7.30 to 10.00pm, refreshments provided and venues will be advised.

- Auckland – Tuesday 17 August: choral workshop
- Hamilton – Wednesday 18 August: choral workshop
- Christchurch – Thursday 19 August: choral workshop
- Wellington – Monday 23 August: choral workshop
- Palmerston North – Wednesday 25 August: choral workshop

Costs

Non-members – \$20

NZCF choir members – \$15

Individual members – \$10

How to apply

- The regional choirs will be contacted in due course and their members informed
- All NZCF members will be sent application forms with the next edition of Breve and forms will also be downloadable from the website.

3) Breve

Breve will be delayed for two weeks in order to report on the Colloquium.

Best wishes

Grant Hutchinson
Chief Executive